interest academic nutritionists. Perhaps the editors will select more applied topics for future volumes. Until they do, continue to consult Annual Review of Medicine (and other sources) for the latest word on nutrition in clinical practice.

MARION NESTLE, PhD
Associate Dean
University of California, San Francisco
School of Medicine

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PHYSICIAN'S HANDBOOK—Twentieth Edition—Marcus A. Krupp, MD; Lawrence M. Tierney, Jr, MD; Ernest Jawetz, MD, PhD; Robert L. Roe, MD, and Carlos A. Camargo, MD. Lange Medical Publications, Drawer L, Los Altos, CA (94022), 1982. 774 pages, $12.00.

Krupp's *Physician's Handbook* was introduced in 1941. It has been a widely read smorgasbord of quick reference for anyone seeing patients with general problems. I read it in medical school, reread it in residency and continue to read it as a practicing family physician. It occupies a venerable place in the ready-reference section for the office.

The book begins with a comprehensive discussion of the emergency medical examination and then has an outline for basic history taking and physical examination. This is especially valuable for medical students who wonder, "Have I missed anything?"

Laboratory evaluation is comprehensively discussed in 250 cogent pages. This is followed by a further distillation of material on vitamins, fluid and electrolyte balance, and oxygen and respiratory therapy.

An especially valuable table is that showing the current clinical uses of radioactive isotopes. Other tables, charts and illustrations are accurate, well-conceived and clear.

A surprising inclusion is the discussion on medical genetics. I don't remember this existing when I was in medical school but it has certainly become an important area to recognize for family physicians.

Who will read this book? Medical students, residents in family practice, paraprofessionals and midlevel practitioners will find it very valuable. Also, anyone who has read earlier editions in the past will find this new one readable as well as filling the need for immediate knowledge.

ELLIOTT B. OPPENHEIM, MD
Ballinger Clinic
Seattle

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WILLIS'S OXFORD CASEBOOK (1650-52)—Introduced and edited by Kenneth Dewhurst, TD, MD, DPhil, FRCPsych. Sandford Publications, Manor House, Sandford-on-Thames, Oxford OX4 4YN, England, 1981. 199 pages, 12 English Pounds, limited to 750 copies.

For those many physicians who live under the impression that medical history is composed of biographies, hero worship and anecdotes about several selected great doctors, this book will be a delightful revelation because it represents the essence of what the history of medicine should be. Needless to say, there is scarcely any physician today who is not familiar with the name of Thomas Willis, father or founder of neurology, and the description of his famous "circle." It is less likely though that physicians nowadays are familiar with the fact that Thomas Willis had an extensive and general medical practice and saw and treated many patients with a vast variety of afflictions. These included respiratory diseases, gastrointestinal disturbances, kidney disease and stones, venereal diseases and various forms of arthritis, gout and rheumatism.

Dr. Dewhurst who studied and published *Thomas Willis's Oxford Casebook* did an inspired job in deciphering and transcribing Willis's detailed notes which he dashed down in the uneven rhythm of his carriage, each time he left the house of a patient. Judging from the reproduction of one such page from *Willis's Casebook,* Dr. Dewhurst's familiarity with Willis's handwriting and mode of thinking must have enabled him to read and anticipate information that would have been illegible to most others.

From the *Casebook* we learn that Thomas Willis followed the medical practices of his day: he bled his patients, but generally he only "took a little blood," he gave them herbal medications, including opium and laudanum. In contrast to many physicians of the past Willis gave his prognosis very frankly, and often too pessimistically, so as to allow his patients the time to see their clergymen, and to settle their worldly affairs.

Of special interest is Dr. Dewhurst's "Summary of Willis's Casebook" during the years of his practice at Oxford 1650-1652. During this period he evidently was very generous in making housecalls; he saw 50 patients, many of whom he visited repeatedly, 20 of whom were men, 22 women and 8 children.

Willis's specialty distribution ranged over the various branches of medicine, including dermatology and venereal disease, and contagious diseases, including all the fevers that were then endemic or epidemic. Willis also operated on patients and saw a great variety of psychiatric patients. The radius of distance of his practice extended as far as 25 to 57 miles, although most of his patients were located between 6 to 16 miles away from his home base.

On the whole, this book presents an intimate and thorough insight into 17th century medical practice; it also contains a chronological outline of Willis's life and career. In addition, there is an excellent biographical sketch of Willis.

The book concludes with a brilliant "Summary and Conclusions," which contain the essential facts of the life and work of the "founder of neurology."

I can scarcely think of anyone in medicine, medical history or the auxiliary professions to whom this book would not be of value and abiding interest.

ILZA VEITH, PhD, DmedSci
Professor Emeritus, Departments of
Psychiatry and History of Health Sciences
University of California, San Francisco

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ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEUROSCIENCE—Volume 5, 1982—Editor: W. Maxwell Cowan, MD; Associate Editors: Zach W. Hall, PhD, and Eric R. Kandel, MD. Annual Reviews, Inc., 4139 El Camino Way, Palo Alto, CA (94306), 1982. 392 pages, $22.00 (USA), $25.00 (elsewhere).

The fifth volume in this series contains articles of interest to both practicing physicians and basic neuroscientists. This is not new; previous editions have been similarly broad in scope. However, this volume also contains a symposium, from the Society for Neuroscience, on the scientific origins of modern neuroscience. This symposium is of more than passing interest to students of neuroscience.

Two articles in this volume are directly useful to clinical practitioners. Brady reviews the classification, clinical features and biochemistry of inherited metabolic storage disorders. This article also contains an interesting preview of potential therapies for these illnesses. McKhann reviews the pathophysiology of multiple sclerosis, with emphasis on immunopathology.

There are several articles in this volume which are of interest to basic neuroscientists. Iggo and Andres review current ideas about the morphology and function of cutaneous receptors. Two articles review the physiology of joint and muscle proprioception, with a historical tip of the hat to Sherrington. Cerebellar physiology and its